

intent/industrial licences issued for establishment of new sugar factories in the cooperative sector and pending implementation is as under :

(As on 15.6.96)

S.No.	State	No. of Letters of intent Pending Implementation
1.	Haryana	1
2.	Punjab	1
3.	Uttar Pradesh	3
4.	Gujarat	9
5.	Maharashtra	43
6.	Karnataka	8
7.	Tamil Nadu	2
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1
Total		68

Generally, it takes about 3-4 years to set up a new sugar factory. 25 Letters of intent were issued during the sugar year 1993-94, (October-September) & one letter of intent during 1995-96 and the remaining letters of intent are under various stages of implementation.

(c) The implementation of Letter of Intent/Industrial Licence is the responsibility of the entrepreneur. The Central Government does not provide any loans for the setting up of new sugar factories in the cooperative sector. However, such loans are provided by the financial institutions directly to the undertakings. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) also provides loan assistance to State Governments for contribution towards the share capital of the sugar factories.

Special Increment of Officials In Vidhesh Sanchar Nigam

2487. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Vidhesh Sanchar Nigam Limited has granted 14 special increments to some of its higher officers appointed in 1995-96 on the plea that these officers were highly qualified;
- (b) if so, the rules under which these increments were sanctioned;
- (c) whether these officers were sent abroad for further training; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

P.F. Racket At Post Office

2488. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated March 15, 1996 captioned 'PF racket at post office';
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether investigation into the said scandal has since been completed;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons for delay;
- (f) whether some officers/employees of the Department of Posts/Post Office have been found involved in this case;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fraud to the extent of Rs.14,84,630/- has taken place at Kalkaji Post Office during the period from Nov. 94 to Sep.95, relating to money orders presented by Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Nehru Place to be issued at Kalkaji Post Office, New Delhi.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) the responsible officials have been identified.
- (e) Question does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.
- (f) Yes, Sir.
- (g) and (h). 4 officials found involved have been placed under suspension and appropriate action initiated.

Loss Suffered by KSCSC

2489. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount suffered by the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation due to difference in ex-factory price and issue price of levy sugar;
- (b) whether the Union Government compensate the above loss;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). The losses suffered by the State Governments are compensated by the Central Govt. through a fund